

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, US, EAID

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MELO ANTUNES

REF: LISBON 6084

1. THE FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS POSED
REFTEL.

2. THE PROPOSED 20 MILLION DOLLARS IN DEVELOPMENT LOANS

TO PORTUGAL WAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED WITH MELO ANTUNES IN
HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT OR THE
SECRETARY. IT WAS THEREFORE NOT MENTIONED IN WHITE HOUSE
AND STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS. THESE
ANNOUNCEMENTS, WHICH WERE TELEPHONED TO YOU, REFLECT
WHAT WAS DISCUSSED VERY GENERALLY IN EACH MEETING. WE
ALSO TELEPHONED SOME WHITE HOUSE PRESS BACKUP MATERIAL,
WHICH REFERRED TO A 55 MILLION DOLLAR AID FIGURE AND
HAD BEEN PREPARED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS. IT WAS
SUBSEQUENTLY NOT USED IN THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING.

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THE SUBJECT OF AID, IN FACT, DID NOT COME UP AT THE

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING AND WAS TREATED ONLY IN DEPARTMENT'S PRESS STATEMENT.

3. FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION ARE IN PREPARATION. ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE JEC WILL BE TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT LOAN PROJECTS. HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD NOT YET TAKE UP THE 20 MILLION DOLLAR FIGURE WITH ANTUNES, EXCEPT IN THE GENERAL TERMS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ASSISTANCE IMPLIED BY DEPT'S PRESS STATEMENT DESCRIPTION OF THE 35 MILLION DOLLAR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE GRANT AS A "FIRST STEP."

4. RE TOTAL AID PROGRAM:

ANGOLA REFUGEE AIRLIFT: THE SENATE VERSION OF THE DISASTER RELIEF PORTION OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, WHICH IS DUE TO COME UP OCTOBER 28, CONTAINS A FIGURE OF 20 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS LEVEL OF APPROPRIATION MAY BE REDUCED ACCORDING TO ESTIMATED ACTUAL NEED. CURRENTLY IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 12 MILLION DOLLARS WILL COVER THE PRESENT AND EXPANDED U.S. AIRLIFT COMMITMENT.

REFUGEE RELIEF: 35 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT ALREADY ANNOUNCED. THIS IS PART OF THE SO-CALLED MIDDLE EAST (SUPPORTING) ASSISTANCE PACKAGE WHICH IS NOW IN OMB AND EXPECTED TO GO TO CONGRESS BY THE END OF THE MONTH. IT IS HOPED THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO SIGN GRANT AGREEMENT WITH GOP BY NOVEMBER 15 BASED ON PATTERSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH ARE MOST HELPFUL.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AND PROJECT LOANS (THE 20 MILLION DOLLARS REFERRED TO ABOVE): 1 MILLION DOLLARS IS FOR TA GRANT AND 19 MILLION FOR DEVELOPMENT LOANS. THIS MONEY IS ALSO TIED TO MIDDLE EAST PACKAGE, MAKING THE TOTAL SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE COMPONENT FOR PORTUGAL IN THAT PACKAGE 55 MILLION DOLLARS.

PL480: THE SECRETARY HAS APPROVED 15 MILLION DOLLAR TITLE I (CONCESSIONAL GRAIN SALES) PROGRAM. IT NOW GOES TO A HIGH LEVEL INTER-AGENCY GROUP, CHAIRED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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OMB, WHICH WILL CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS, INCLUDING PORTUGAL, AND ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES ON BUDGETING AND COMMODITY AVAILABILITIES.

HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEE: 20 MILLION DOLLARS PLANNED FOR FY 76.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE ABOVE REMAINING PORTIONS OF

THE TOTAL AID PROGRAM (20 MILLION DOLLARS DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE LOANS AND PL 480) WILL BE TIMED TO GIVE
SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO FURTHER PORTUGUESE POLITICAL
EVOLUTION, BASED ON YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS. KISSINGER

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